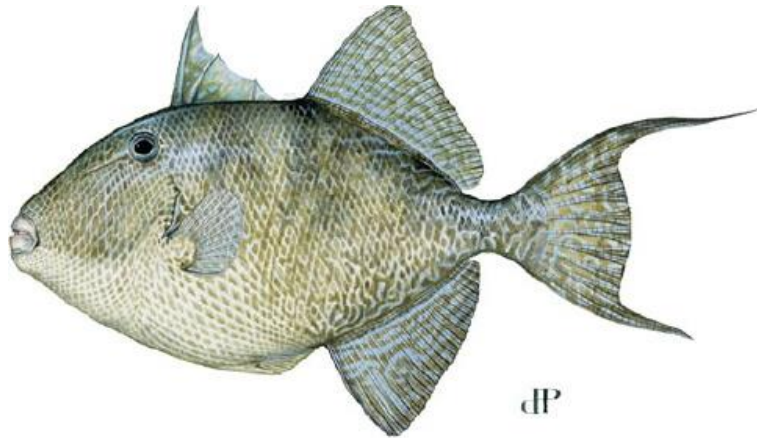


# **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS NEW REGULATIONS FOR GRAY TRIGGERFISH IN GULF OF MEXICO FEDERAL WATERS**

*May 2013*



## **Actions in Amendment 37 to Modify the Rebuilding Plan (Implemented May 2013)**

- Established a commercial annual catch limit of 64,100 pounds whole weight (lbs) and annual catch target of 60,900 lbs.
- Established a recreational annual catch limit of 241,200 lbs and annual catch targets of 217,100 lbs.
- Established a commercial trip limit of 12 fish and a recreational daily bag limit of 2 fish.
- Established an annual commercial and recreational season closure June 1 through July 31.
- Modified existing recreational accountability measures with an in-season closure authority and added an overage adjustment when gray triggerfish are in the overfished status.

## **When will the commercial sector closure occur?**

- For 2013, the commercial sector annual catch target or quota was reduced from 60,900 to 51,602 lbs as a result of a 2012 overage.
- There is an annual spawning season closure from June 1 to July 31. Amendment 37 regulations are effective June 10, 2013, so for 2013, the closure will begin on June 10, 2013.

## **When will the recreational sector closure occur?**

- There is an annual spawning season closure from June 1 to July 31. Amendment 37 regulations are effective June 10, 2013, so for 2013, the closure will begin on June 10, 2013.

**Why are these closures needed?**

- The 2011 assessment of the gray triggerfish population indicated there were too few fish and that too many were being caught.
- To rebuild the gray triggerfish population, a rebuilding plan was implemented in 2008, but recent information shows the population is not recovering fast enough to meet the rebuilding plan.
- The Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council updated the rebuilding plan in Amendment 37 and put in place long-term measures to control gray triggerfish harvest.

**How are commercial landings monitored?**

- Landings data came from:
  - Southeast Fisheries Science Center ACL data sets.
  - Accumulated Landings System data sets.
- Historical landings can be found at:  
[http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable\\_fisheries/acl\\_monitoring/commercial\\_gulf/index.html](http://sero.nmfs.noaa.gov/sustainable_fisheries/acl_monitoring/commercial_gulf/index.html)

**How are recreational landings projected?**

- Historical landings from 2011 and 2012 will be used to predict the 2013 season length.
- Landings data came from:
  - Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey (MRFSS).
  - Southeast Fisheries Science Center Headboat survey.
  - Texas Parks and Wildlife Department charter and private/rental creel survey.

**Related Links:**

- [Fishery Bulletin FB13-040](#)
- [Amendment 37 Environmental Assessment](#)
- [2011 Update Assessment](#)